

Box 19382
Thorne Bay AK 99919

February 9, 2003

Mr. Kevin Waring, Chair
Local Boundary Commission
550 W. 7th Avenue
Suite 1770
Anchorage AK 99501

Dear Mr. Waring:

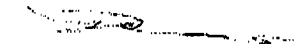
I wanted to support the letter submitted by the Prince of Wales Community Advisory Counsel regarding the mandated borough building apparently ordered by the Alaska State Legislature. I believe that the facts outlined in that letter make it clear that the data used in your draft report was not valid and out of date. I assume that the commission was not at fault but that the data source were no longer valid. It seems clear to me that there is insufficient money on this Island to support the addition of another layer of government at this time.

I would encourage you to change the data in that report before it goes to the legislature.

I very much support the idea of a Borough on this Island but even if all the land of the Island were available to be taxed, I doubt there are enough people to support the costs associated with the addition of more government. As you clearly heard during the testimony on February 8, there is not much taxable land available. Between what is owned by the government and what is owned by the native tribes of the Island and the area, there is very little land available to support a property tax.

Assuming this will be passed on to the legislature I want to say to them that this is a clear move to make the local governments responsible for taxation so you can say ' See how we have saved the government money'.

Sincerely,



Loyd Gathman